

The Colored American

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A NATIONAL NEGRO NEWSPAPER

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We solicit news, contributions, opinions and in fact, all matters affecting the race. We will not pay for matter, however, unless it is ordered by us. All matter intended for publication must reach this office by Wednesday of each week to insure insertion in the current issue.

Agents are wanted everywhere. Send or instructions.

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TUSKEGEE'S OPEN DOOR.

The cry from some quarters that Booker T. Washington is "buying up" all the promising college graduates and "carting them off to Tuskegee" to cripple the higher educational forces is the veriest rot. Such inane gabble is unworthy a place in the columns of a newspaper that is supposed to cater to the instruction of intelligent readers. Mr. Washington has engaged a number of graduates from various colleges, from which each year he selects timber suitable to his needs. He is giving these young people an opportunity to work for their own benefit, and is at the same time bringing into the Southland the flower of the race's intellect, that has been nurtured and fostered in the best universities of the country—bringing to the black belt an uplifting agency that might not otherwise be drawn thither—a haven that is certain to lighten the whole lump of ignorance and shiftlessness. Trained minds, to train other minds, are what the race needs, and Mr. Washington is rendering the entire nation a service in choosing the very best material available to aid him in his great cause. The men and women chosen this year are types of an increasing class of promising Afro-Americans who are making for progress, and in employing them, the "Wizard" builds wisely and well. Would that more Tuskegees might rise up to offer an open door to brains and character. Would that the race would develop a thousand enterprises of every variety to provide places where the commercial, agricultural and mechanical genius of our people could find avenues towards substantial citizenship!

The putty balls of envious contemporaries move us not.

The foreign element, with a characteristic disrespect for the autocracy of legal methods in redressing grievances, is chiefly to blame for the rioting in

and about Shenandoah, Pa. If the operators had a spoonful of sense, they would supplant these adventurers at once with native American labor—the best of which is the industrious and patient Negro. The country will find out its mistake one of these days.

LET US LEARN FROM THE JEWS.

Our sympathies are with the Jewish mourners who followed Rabbi Joseph the other day in New York to his last resting place, and against the blackguards who disgraced themselves and the country by their savage attack upon the funeral procession. It was the natural outbreak of race prejudice that shows its ugly head whenever it thinks the law is powerless to administer punishment. Prejudice in any form is the foe to Christianity and good government, and it behooves all loyal citizens to take a hand against it. We are glad the Jews are invoking the aid of the best legal talent to ferret out and punish the offenders, and we congratulate them upon their prompt and unanimous rally in defense of their rights and racial dignity. No race can inspire respect that does not stand ready with purse and fist to maintain that which it holds as its sacred heritage—free and untrammelled citizenship, under the laws of the land. Despite persecution, outrage and humiliation, the Jews have risen to be proportionately the richest people on the face of the earth.

A teacher who thinks only of the money she is to receive for her services is not worth her salt.

PUBLICITY PROMOTES REFORMS.

The Record of this city ought to understand that there are two sides to every controversy, and it is a very narrow newspaper that will assume to sit in judgment on any matter with only ex parte evidence at hand. Differences of opinion will always exist as to the merits of public men, whether they be priests or politicians, and those who venture into the white light of official station, must be thin-skinned to offer puerile objections or complain like babies when asked to account for their stewardship. When charges are made in the public prints, whether true or false, investigation is the only method by which the acts may be made known, and justice established. An equal chance and fair play is the invariable policy of The Colored American in handling any subject deemed worthy of notice, whether it concerns a political party, social organization or religious denomination. Any other course would be fossilism personified. The people are entitled to know the trend of sentiment concerning church and state.

The Negro must become able to have the truth told about his shortcomings, without flying into a passion.

NATIONAL NEGRO BUSINESS LEAGUE.

Only a few more days elapse before the assembling of the National Negro Business League at Richmond, Virginia. The exact dates are August 25, 26, and 27. The arrangements are all perfected for the reception and entertainment of the great outpouring of tradesmen, merchants, professional and agricultural representatives, who have come to regard these meetings as dearly as the Mohammedans revere the annual pilgrimage to Mecca. The help and encouragement growing out of an honest interchange of experiences and the value of the suggestions offered at

the sessions of the League are working wonders in promoting business enterprise among our people, and the reports each year have shown a positive growth in the number, character and volume of the Negro's commercial operations. We increase the desire for a standing in the world of trade and finance by noting the successes that our thousands of individuals are making in many avenues of industry. By putting our heads together and struggling for larger commercial opportunities, for industrial recognition and for practical and marketable education, the solid and permanent advancement of the race can be assured. The attendance at the meeting of the league on the 25th should be large, and every delegate should come prepared to add something to the eclat of the occasion. If any point is not clear, as to plans, purposes and exhibits, inquiries should be addressed to Booker T. Washington, Tuskegee, Alabama.

If no premium is placed upon female virtue, by honoring her that hath it and disciplining her that hath it not, society is doomed.

PHILADELPHIA RECORD SUSTAINS US

The protest of The Colored American against the unfair treatment of the Negro soldiers by Adjutant General Corbin, is stirring up the press of the country, and a number of leading metropolitan dailies have been giving our candid expose considerable editorial attention. The Philadelphia Record quotes at length from our article, and gives it a prominent place in its columns. While taking the view that the Negroes who saved Gen. Corbin from disgrace perhaps did no more than their duty, and that therefore, the latter is not especially indebted to them, the Record adds this "sackdolager," a parting shot that rings out like a clarion note, sustaining unequivocally the position of The Colored American:

"None the less, from the standpoint of the party that armed the Negro with the ballot and which calls upon him to stand up and fight the foes of the Republic, there is no adequate answer to the questioning of the Negro editor."

And it may be that the prejudiced Corbin will not attempt to make any. Our only resort is an appeal to our soldier-president, Theodore Roosevelt.

Say what you will, the Negro press exerts an influence which the powers recognize, whether they admit the fact or not.

In the North the man-hunters are called a "posse," and in the South they are known as a "mob," but when they get hold of a victim, they both look alike to him.

Our business status is the ladder which promises best for racial growth. The National Business League, now an assured fixture, is the organization to which we must look for the most substantial results.

The men accused of participating in the Leeburg lynching have been indicted, but before we jubilate too vociferously, let us remember that they are not yet convicted by a petit jury, drawn from the ranks of their fellow-citizens. Remember Lake City.

It is a pity the District Commissioners have not the authority to accept the services of the public spirited physicians who offered to inspect the health of schools free of charge. We are pleased to note that the list of vol-

unteers included the names of several colored physicians. The Negro is ever ready to do his part.

If, as Editor Manning claims, the Negro press has no influence in securing better conditions for the Negro, and that its counsel is invariably unheeded, why does he continue to publish the Indianapolis World, and insist that a hard-working people shall go down into their pockets and pay him for a paper that he confesses is worthless?

Persecution is solidifying the Negro people. Opposition brings out the strong points of individuals and races. Today the Negro has more schools, better churches, greater business enterprises, larger farms, bigger bank accounts, more competent professional men and more general culture than he had a decade ago. Let us labor on, and take advantage of all opportunities to rise.

The Washington Post has discovered that the "best citizens" did not take part in that Leeburg lynching, and as a result into a denunciation of the fiends that perpetrate such direful acts, in contravention of the law of the land, and who bring shame upon decent communities. The Post has, at last, seen a great light, and hastens to get under the banner of respectability. Lynching is growing to be a discreditable pastime.

R. L. Smith, editor of the Helping Hand, has been appointed chief deputy in the office of the United States Marshal A. J. Houston, of Texas. Mr. Smith is a man of great influence in the politics of the Lone Star State, and served with credit in her legislature. He is the head of the Farmers' Improvement Society, which has saved many acres of land to the Negro by its system of "lifting mortgages." The appointment gives general satisfaction.

That there are scandals connected with the Philippine situation requiring investigation, no one will doubt. Not least among them is the summary turning-down of competent Negro soldiers, whose valorous services called for places of honor in the regular army. Marking an officer as inefficient, for the purpose of defeating his promotion, merely because he is colored, is not a policy that pleases Americans who believe in fair play. We do not believe that Mr. Roosevelt knows as much about these things as he should. Let the facts be brought to his attention.

There is a healthful renewal of the agitation for a proper recognition of the Negro soldier in the regular army. General disgust is felt among the race over the niggard treatment accorded the "boys" who fought so valiantly at San Juan, Santiago and in the Philippines. We are entitled to a fair share of commissions and emoluments growing out of the war, and the case should not be permitted to rest until full justice has been done. The facts should be laid before President Roosevelt. We have no doubt that he is inclined to do the right thing by his fellow-comrades.

The Negroes of Washington, who draw from \$900 to \$1,600 per year from the government, and who are amply able to buy a home for their families, are buying white men's houses over and over again—with the deed remaining in the white man's name.